

# Ann Landers

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ANN LANDERS

Saturday, September 15, 2001

Dear Ann:

Thousands of college students and their parents are shopping to decorate dormitory rooms and apartments. Please advise them to look for the government-backed "Energy Star" label when buying lights and electronics. The label is a distinctive half-globe logo with the word "energy" and a star inside. Products with this label meet high energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

One of the more popular items among students is the halogen torchiere floor lamp. However, halogen bulbs burn at very high temperatures, and there have been at least 350 fires caused when halogen lamps ignited paper, curtains or other flammable material. Some college campuses now prohibit such lamps because of the fire risk.

Please inform readers with a halogen torchiere to make sure it has a protective metal grating on top, shuts off instantly when tipped over, even slightly, and no curtains or other flammable objects can come into contact with it. I would also like to encourage your readers to choose an Energy Star-labeled torchiere that will provide excellent light plus environmental and energy-saving benefits.

The Energy Star label is also found on products in more than 30 categories, from TVs, VCRs and DVDs, to stereo equipment and heating and cooling equipment. Your readers can make a difference in their environment simply by looking for this label. They can learn more by accessing our Web site: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Ann Bailey, Chief

Energy Star Labeling Branch  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington

Thank you for your informative letter. For those readers who are still searching for dormitory appliances, please keep this warning in mind.

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